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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during January 2018 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was down 4 percent from January 2017. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,004,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent from January 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,027 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 199,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 300 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.59 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 4.29 billion pounds produced in January 2017.

Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.76 million head, up 7 percent from January 2017. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 1,376 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.6 million pounds, 5 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 49,000 head, 5 percent above January 2017. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 235 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.29 billion pounds, 6 percent above the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.7 million head, 6 percent above January 2017. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.5 million pounds, was 2 percent above January 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 176,300 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, up 4 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2017 contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2018 contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CATTLE INVENTORY

Charleston, West Virginia - Cattle inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2018 totaled 395,000 head, down 10,000 head from the January 1, 2017 inventory. **All cows and heifers that have calved** totaled 210,000 head, this is down 5,000 head from January 1, 2017.

Comparing January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2017: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 203,000 head, down 4,000 head; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 7,000 head, down 1,000 head; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 58,000 head, down 1,000 head; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 37,000 head, down 1,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 3,000 head, down 1,000 head; **other heifers** totaled 18,000 head, up 1,000 head; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 41,000 head, up 2,000 head; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 15,000 head, unchanged; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 71,000 head, down 6,000 head. **Cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2017.

The 2017 **calf crop** totaled 195,000 head, down 5,000 head from the 2016 calf crop.

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 94.4 million head, 1 percent above the 93.7 million head on January 1, 2017. **All cows and heifers that have calved**, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.6 million head on January 1, 2017.

Comparing January 1, 2018, to January 1, 2017: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 31.7 million head, up 2 percent; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 9.40 million head, up 1 percent; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 20.2 million head, up 1 percent; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 6.13 million head, down 4 percent; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 4.78 million head, up 1 percent; **other heifers** totaled 9.33 million head, up 4 percent; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 16.4 million head, down slightly; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 2.25 million head, up slightly; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 14.4 million head, up slightly. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots totaled 14.0 million head, up 7 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** (outside of feedlots) was 26.1 million head, down 2 percent.

The **2017 calf crop** in the United States was estimated at 35.8 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26.0 million head, up 2 percent from the first half of 2016. Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.

SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia - All sheep and lambs inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2018, was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2017.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 28,000 head on January 1, 2018, unchanged from 2017. Ewes totaled 23,000 head, unchanged from 2017. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2017. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2017.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 7,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2017. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 3,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The **2017 lamb crop** totaled 27,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 117 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production during 2017 was 105,000 pounds, up 5,000 pounds from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 18,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.45 per pound, up \$0.20 per pound from the total of \$1.25 per pound in 2016. Value was 152,000 dollars, up 27,000 dollars from the value of 125,000 dollars in 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2016. Lamb death loss during 2017 totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2016.

Meat and other goats and kids inventory on January 1, 2018 was estimated at 21,500 head, up 500 head from January 1, 2017. **Milk goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. **Angora goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 5.23 million head, down slightly from 2017.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.83 million head on January 1, 2018, decreased 1 percent from 3.88 million head on January 1, 2017. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.01 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 1.40 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The **2017 lamb crop** of 3.20 million head was down 2 percent from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2017 was 24.7 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.44 million head, down 4 percent from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.47 per pound for a total value of 36.4 million dollars, down 3 percent from 37.7 million dollars in 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 213 thousand head, down 2 percent from 2016. Lamb death loss decreased 2 percent from 373 thousand head to 367 thousand head in 2017.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2017. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down slightly from 2017. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2017 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, down slightly from 2016.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2018, down 1 percent from 2017. Milk goat inventory was 380 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017, while Angora goats were down 7 percent, totaling 142 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2017 was 725 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 133 thousand head. Average weight per clip

was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.00 per pound with a value of 3.62 million dollars.

Sheep and Goat Revisions - All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2017, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. No revisions were made to goats and kids inventory or kid crop at the United States level. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to sheep and lambs inventory and no change was made to the lamb crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

ANNUAL CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Layer numbers during 2017 averaged 1.24 million, down 2 percent from the 2016 average of 1.26 million. The average annual production per layer was 221 eggs, down 6 eggs per layer from the 2016 total of 227 eggs per layer. Pullets for 2017 totaled 765,000, up 7 percent from the 2016 total of 715,000. Other chickens totaled 99,000 in 2017, down 9 percent from the 2016 total of 109,000.

Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2017 totaled 273.1 million eggs. This was 5 percent below the 2016 production of 287.1 million eggs.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2017 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.05 million head, down 4 percent from the 2016 total of 2.14 million.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2017 was \$15.8 million, up 1 percent from the December 1, 2016 value of \$15.6 million. The average value of \$7.70 per bird on December 1, 2017 was up \$0.40 per bird from the 2016 value.

United States - Layer numbers during 2017 averaged 376 million, up 3 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2017 was 281 eggs, up 1 percent from 2016.

Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2017 totaled 106 billion eggs, up 4 percent from 2016. Table egg production, at 92.1 billion eggs, was up 4 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.6 billion eggs, was down 1 percent from 2016.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2017 (excluding commercial broilers) was 505 million birds, up 2 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2017 was \$2.13 billion, up 2 percent from December 1, 2016. The average value decreased from \$4.22 per bird on December 1, 2016, to \$4.21 per bird on December 1, 2017.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia - The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,400 in 2017, down 200 farms from 2016. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size was 176 acres, up 1 acre from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 14,300 in 2017, down 100 farms from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 112 acres, up 1 acre from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,300 in 2017, down 100 farms from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 264 acres, up 5 acres from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 350 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 240,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 686 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 150 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 120,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 800 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 170 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 647 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 130 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 130,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 1,000 acres, unchanged from 2016.

United States - The number of farms in the United States for 2017 is estimated at 2.05 million, down 12 thousand farms from 2016. Total land in farms, at 910 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2016. The average farm size for 2017 is 444 acres, up 2 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and

\$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2017 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2016 calendar year.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Number of farms declined by 12 thousand from 2016. The number of farms in Sales Classes \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$1,000,000 or more increased while all other sales classes declined. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Land in farms, at 910 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2016. The biggest change for 2017 is that producers in Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more operated 1.3 million more acres than in 2016. Similar to the previous year, in 2017 over 30 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales. Forty-one percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2017 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 2 acres to 444 acres per farm. Average farm sizes increased in the \$250,000 - \$499,999, \$500,000 - \$999,999, and \$1,000,000 or more sales classes and decreased or remained unchanged in the others.

MAPLE SYRUP SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the Maple Syrup Survey from the end of April through the middle of May. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. The survey asks various questions including the number of taps, the amount of syrup produced, sales, and the length of sap collection. The results of this survey will be released in the *Crop Production Report* on June 12th at noon and will be published in the June edition of the *Mountain State Reporter* and on our website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>. To be added on our list for survey participation, please go to <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/counts/>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. Your information matters!



Census Reminder: It's Not Too Late

If you have not returned your 2017 Census of Agriculture form by the February 5th deadline, it's not too late to be counted. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will continue to accept census forms through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of U.S. agriculture.

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